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**From:** Atencio, Kathie [Atencio.Kathie@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/7/2020 9:57:36 PM  
**To:** Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]; Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]; Rothery, Deirdre [Rothery.Deirdre@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: EJCPS Press Release

Hi Betsy,

I found out about this EJ grant yesterday from Danny Heffernan. Steve, Randy and I talked about it this morning and apparently Michael Wenstrom did reach out to Randy on this possible grant in early August, so we are glad to see that they received it. We will definitely be in touch with the tribe on how we can assist. In the near future, we are looking at doing outreach in the EMB Program through geographic subarea teams, so this is good timing for that team to discuss how they might be able to assist with the training that the tribe is hoping to access through this grant.

Thanks,

Kathie

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**From:** Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Rothery, Deirdre <Rothery.Deirdre@epa.gov>; Atencio, Kathie <Atencio.Kathie@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: UPDATED: EJCPS Press Release

Hi Kathie...I'm assuming this is work being done out of your section in coordination with Danny, but please confirm. Looks like good work!

Betsy

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**From:** Smith, Mark A. <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 2:30 PM  
**To:** Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: UPDATED: EJCPS Press Release

Betsy - fysa. This is an ej grant to standing rock for emergency planning work. My understanding is Danny's folks have been coordinating with your folks but didn't want you to be surprised by the press release. Let me know if questions.  
Thx

Mark A. Smith, Director  
Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division

US EPA Region 8

303.312.6112 (office)

303.501.3052 (mobile)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Sopkin, Gregory" <sopkin.gregory@epa.gov>  
**Date:** October 7, 2020 at 2:25:16 PM MDT  
**To:** "Mutter, Andrew" <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>, "Thomas, Deb" <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>, "Sethuraman, Jag" <Sethuraman.Jag@epa.gov>, "Smith, Mark A." <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>, "Morlock, Nancy" <morlock.nancy@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Mylott, Richard" <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>, "Pualani, Barbara" <Pualani.Barbara@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: EJCPS Press Release

Looks good – thanks Andrew!

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**From:** Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:21 PM  
**To:** Sopkin, Gregory <sopkin.gregory@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Sethuraman, Jag <Sethuraman.Jag@epa.gov>; Smith, Mark A. <Smith.Marka@epa.gov>; Morlock, Nancy <morlock.nancy@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>; Pualani, Barbara <Pualani.Barbara@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: UPDATED: EJCPS Press Release

Greg,

The team tweaked the language as we discussed. Pls review.

Andrew

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**EPA announces selection of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to receive \$120,000 for environmental emergency planning**

*Standing Rock Sioux Tribe one of 18 organizations selected nationwide for Collaborative Problem-Solving Agreements*

**FORT YATES, ND (October XX, 2020)** – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the selection of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to receive an award of \$120,000 in Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Agreements for environmental emergency planning. Today's agreement is one of 18 selected community-based organizations nationwide, totaling \$2.1 million in funding distributed this year under EJCPS Cooperative Agreements. EPA anticipates that it will make the award once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

**INSERT APPROVED AAW QUOTE**

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will use the funds awarded through EJCPS to build capacity for responding to potential environmental emergencies. The project will focus on the development and improvement of community-based emergency action plans, as well as training for tribal emergency leaders and responders. Key partners in the project include North Dakota Emergency Services, Chief Oilfield

Services, LLC, North Dakota Environmental Quality, Standing Rock Department of Environmental Regulations, and EPA.

“We are very pleased to announce the selection of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as an awardee for funding to train the next generation of tribal emergency response leaders,” **said Regional Administrator Greg Sopkin**. “The agreement will empower tribal communities, with the support of EPA and other partners, to continue to effectively prepare for environmental hazards.”

This year’s EJCPS projects include reducing sources of air pollution, reducing lead exposure in homes of low-income residents, and reducing illegal dumping on tribal lands. 88% of this year’s recipients are in communities with Opportunity Zones, which were created under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed into law by President Trump. Nearly 35 million Americans live in communities designated as Qualified Opportunity Zones. A portion of the Standing Rock Reservation is a Qualified Opportunity Zone.

**Background:**

The EJCPS Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding for non-profit and tribal organizations to partner with stakeholders from across industry, government, and academia to develop and implement solutions that significantly address environmental and/or public health issues in their communities. These projects support local problem solving through the development of sustainable partnerships. This program provides funds for community driven solutions to local, environmental problems.

Qualified Opportunity Zones are census tracts of low-income and distressed communities designated by state governors and certified by the Department of Treasury. These are areas where new investment may be eligible for preferential tax treatment. As of April 2019, there were more than 8,700 designated Qualified Opportunity Zones located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five United States territories.

For a description of all winners nationwide, please

visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-4>

For more information about EPA’s Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>

[Learn more about Opportunity Zones by visiting the federal Opportunity Zones website.](#)